

Planning Zoning and Housing Committee
Of the RTM

Meeting Minutes

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
DARIEN CT.

Date: January 23, 2006

Place: Employee Lounge Town Hall

Present: Bayne, Conologue, Fingar, Grimes, Magida, Normile, Rycenga, Sheehan, Sickinger,
Stark, Young

Absent: Van der Kieft

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Special guests were Jeremy Ginsberg, Planning and Zoning Director and Patrick Damanti, Chairman of Planning and Zoning Commission.

Budget:

Jeremy Ginsberg presented P&Z Department budget proposal for 2006/2007 budget.

He noted that the major changes to the budget are reflected in higher revenues due to the RTM ratified increase in fees.

Additionally requested major expense items for the coming year are attributed to the purchase, training and implementation of CityView PhaseI software package. This software is expected to greatly enhance the efficiency not only of the Planning and Zoning Department as well as the other land use departments as it will electronically manage the permit and inspection timeline. The Department is also looking to upgrade its GIS satellite mapmaking system in order to more effectively manage the real time retrieval and printing of town maps when they are needed by the various land use boards, other municipal agencies and the public. Although the initial cost is quite high, it is felt that by keeping this process "in house" rather than outsourcing for each map, the Department will reduce some of its consultancy expenses.

The proposed budget is on track with previous year's actual budget with the exception of the software requests and more funds being set aside for Regulatory Counsel in anticipation of upcoming legal issues. As always the budget is very tight and any extra meetings, etc. will show some shortfalls due to overtime costs for example.

Town Plan:

The Town Plan was quickly discussed as it will be on the P&Z Commission Public Hearing agenda on Tuesday, January 24. Once the final draft is completed, the Town Plan will go to the RTM to be adopted. It was emphasized to the committee that this should be viewed as a "road map" for Darien. The Commission has worked very hard to put together a comprehensive plan that encompasses all issues that pertain to Darien.

It was agreed that the Chairman should schedule another meeting for the committee to discuss the P&Z Department budget prior to its presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tamsin Sickinger
Clerk